

Around the Services

Compiled by Paul Disney from service reports



Air Force

CLUSTER bombs dropped on strategic targets within Afghanistan played an important role in the quick collapse of Taliban forces. New technologies employed by the Air Force allowed pilots to drop their bombs from a much higher altitude, ensuring a high rate of survival for both pilots and aircraft.



Department of Defense

PRESIDENT George W. Bush signed an executive order Dec. 14th stipulating that service members in Afghanistan, and in the air space above it, will receive significant tax breaks. Service members directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations are also eligible if they are receiving imminent-danger or hostile-fire pay.



Marines

LEATHERNECKS serving with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS *Bataan* in the Arabian Sea practiced martial arts techniques before following special operations units into Afghanistan in December. At press time the 101st Airborne Division had replaced the 26th MEU in Kandahar, releasing the unit for other missions within Afghanistan.



Navy

The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the famed Blue Angels, will start its 2002 season with a show this month at Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif. The Blues will perform in some 70 shows in the United States and Canada during the season, which will end Nov. 9.